

BRIXWORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1913.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in submitting to you my SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT dealing with the Vital Statistics and the Sanitary Condition of Brixworth Rural District, comprised of 36 Parishes, having an area of 63,647 acres, an estimated population of 11,833, and about 2,986 houses, averaging 4 inmates per house.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.—In 1913 there were 226 nett births registered in the District, as against 246 for 1912, showing a decrease of 20, or a birth-rate of 19·09 per 1,000, as against 20·7 per 1,000 for 1912.

DEATHS.—Total deaths registered in the District in 1913 (excluding 21 deaths of persons not belonging thereto, and including 11 deaths of persons dying outside the District but belonging to it) were 147, as against 151 for 1912, showing a decrease of 4 and a death-rate of 12·4 per 1,000, as against 12·7 per 1,000 for 1912.

In order to make the death-rates of different areas comparable, allowance has to be made for differences in age and sex constitution of each area, as compared with the age and sex constitution of some standard population. The Registrar General has, therefore, through the County Medical Officer of Health, supplied factors for correcting the general death-rates of each particular district. These factors are based on the age and sex of the population at the last census. The factor for the Brixworth Rural District is ·8329, and the corrected death-rate arrived at through this factor is 10·33.

INFANT MORTALITY.—The number of deaths under 1 year for 1913 were 20, as against 18 for 1912.

The death-rate being 88·4 per 1,000 births, as against 73·1 per 1,000 births for 1912.

PHTHISIS.—The deaths registered as caused by this disease were 6, as against 7 for 1912, or a death-rate of ·50 per 1,000, as against ·59 per 1,000 for 1912.

There were also 2 deaths from other Tubercular diseases, which might be put down with Phthisis, being due to the same cause.

RESPIRATORY DISEASES (Bronchitis and Pneumonia)—The deaths registered during 1913 were 15, as against 19 for 1912, or a death-rate of 1·26 per 1,000, as against 1·60 per 1,000 for 1912.

CANCER.—11 deaths were registered for 1913, as against 15 for 1912, or a death-rate of ·92 per 1,000, as against 1·26 per 1,000 for 1912.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES (including Diarrhœa and Enteritis).—17 deaths were registered, as against 3 in 1912, giving a death-rate per 1,000 of 1·43, as against a rate of ·25 for 1912.

TABLE I.

BRIXWORTH RURAL DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1913 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Population Estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.				
		Uncor- rected Number	Nett.						Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.		
			Number	Rate.	Number	Rate.	Of Non- residents registered in the District.	Of Resi- dents not registered in the District.	Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number	Rate.	
1908	11,820	No Records available.	248	20·9	164	13·8	11	4	18	72·5	157	13·2	
1909	11,820		216	18·2	179	15·1	18	3	11	50·9	164	13·8	
1910	11,820		225	19·0	143	12·0	9	2	11	48·8	136	11·5	
1911	11,833		253	254	21·4	149	12·5	17	11	14	55·1	143	12·0
1912	11,833		246	246	20·7	148	12·5	14	17	18	73·1	151	12·7
1913	11,833	227	226	19·9	157	13·2	21	11	20	88·4	147	12·4	

Total population at all ages	...	...	...	11,833
Area of District in acres	...	...	...	63,647
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	2,264
Average number of persons per house	...	...	...	3·9

TABLE II.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1913.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.			At all Ages.	1 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.
Diphtheria	...	...	12	5	5	2	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	5	...	...	...	2	3	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	38	10	21	2	5	...	...
Enteric Fever	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	1	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	26	...	3	7	12	4	...
Totals	...	...	83	15	30	11	19	8	...

TABLE III.

CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1913.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	At all Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.	Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non- Residents" in Institutions in the District.
Enteric Fever ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	..	1	...	*2
Measles ...	3	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	*1
Scarlet Fever ...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	*2
Whooping Cough ...	3	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup	4	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	8 (*7)
Influenza ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	6	...	...	...	...	1	1	4	...	8 (*6 †1 ‡1)
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer—Malignant Disease ...	11	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	7	...
Rheumatic Fever ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Organic Heart Disease ...	17	...	...	...	...	...	1	6	10	‡4
Bronchitis ...	9	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	...
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	6	2	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	...
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ...	5	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	...
Congenital Debility and Mal- formation, including Pre- mature Birth...	7	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	*1
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...
Suicide ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Other defined Diseases ...	52	...	...	...	3	...	3	4	42	6 (*1 ‡5)
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	5	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	3	...
Totals ...	147	20	5	3	7	3	11	25	73	32

* "Non-Residents" at Northampton County Borough Hospital.

† "Non-Residents" at Creaton Sanatorium.

‡ "Residents" at Workhouse.

TABLE IV.

INFANT MORTALITY, 1913.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.			Under 1 week.	1--2 weeks.	2--3 weeks.	3--4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 months.	3 months and under 6 months.	6 months and under 9 months.	9 months and under 12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Laryngitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	2	...	1	4
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	3
Congenital Malformations	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Premature Birth	...	1	1	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	3
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	3
Totals	...	...	2	2	1	1	6	4	4	2	4	20

Nett Births in the year { legitimate 214.
illegitimate 12.

Nett Deaths in the Year of { legitimate infants 16.
illegitimate infants 4.

SANITARY REPORT.

In Table III. deaths for "other defined diseases" number 52. Most of these are due to causes dependent on old age.

There were 17 deaths due to heart disease (as against the same number in 1912), the chief cause of which is Rheumatism, which is largely due to damp houses and also to want of care on the part of the individuals in not changing damp clothing.

PHTHISIS.—Deaths due to this disease numbered 6, a slight decrease from 1912. The two predisposing causes of Phthisis are overcrowding and want of fresh air.

CANCER.—The death-rate due to this disease has slightly decreased, there being four less deaths than in 1912.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

83 cases were notified during the year (including 26 cases of Phthisis), as against 61 for 1912.

SCARLET FEVER.

38 cases were notified during the year, as against 31 for 1912.

Of the 38 cases, Moulton was responsible for 8, East Haddon and Lamport 4 each, Spratton, Walgrave, Hanging Houghton and Overstone for 3 each, and Old, Foxhall, Althorp, Cottesbrooke, Kingsthorpe, Little Brington, Great Brington, Maidwell, Faxton and Hannington for 1 each.

No cause could be found for the origin of any of these cases.

One death occurred at Spratton in a child who had only recently recovered from an attack of measles.

DIPHTHERIA AND MEMBRANOUS CROUP.

12 cases were notified, as against 10 for 1912. Of the 12 cases Boughton was responsible for 7, and Moulton Park, Ravensthorpe, Old, Brixworth and Spratton for 1 each.

Diphtheria at Boughton, which began in September, 1912, and was not abated till July, 1913, was of a very severe type and probably one of the worst outbreaks we have had since the one that occurred at Spratton 11 years ago.

The causes of the outbreak were—

(1) Seven of the school children were found to be Diphtheria carriers. These children were excluded from school until their throats were proved to be healthy again.

(2) A well outside Mr. Muggleton's was found to be contaminated. This well was accordingly closed.

Diphtheria at Brixworth. The cause was probably due to defective Sanitary arrangements in the up-stair water closet.

No definite cause could be found for the Diphtheria in the other villages.

3 deaths occurred in the District, 2 at Boughton and 1 at Ravensthorpe.

TYPHOID FEVER.

2 cases were notified as against 1 for 1912. The cases occurred at Moulton and Pitsford. No cause could be found for the case at Moulton. The case at Pitsford was undoubtedly due to defective Sanitary arrangements.

(1) The water supply is pumped into a cistern from the laundry, this cistern is on a roof above a barn and w.c., it has no cover and the water for the w.c. is taken from the house supply.

(2) Large quantities of manure were stacked not far from the cottage, the smell of which is constantly being complained of.

(3) Outside in the street is a large catch pit and all the refuse from the road drains from above the Hall, about 800 feet, runs into it. The pit when full, overflows, and runs on the surface some 70 yards to a highway drain.

These defects have since been put right.

PHTHISIS.

26 cases were notified as against 13 in 1912.

People who are insured are either sent to a Sanatorium or have shelters provided for them in their back gardens where they can sleep and so carry-out the open air treatment. For the uninsured amongst the poor very little can be done.

MEASLES.

Measles were very prevalent in the following villages :—Spratton, Harleston, Ravens-thorpe, Brixworth, Creaton, Walgrave, Guilsborough, Hollowell and Moulton. The Schools were closed in all of them for some weeks.

WHOOPING COUGH.

There was an epidemic of Whooping Cough at Creaton in July, for which the Schools were closed for a month.

VACCINATION.

Vaccination is still decreasing, most of the parents getting exemptions for their children, who will be in great danger should Small Pox break out.

WATER SUPPLY.

There is a good supply of water, which is laid into stand pipes and in the streets and into the houses in the following villages : Chapel and Church Brampton, Great and Little Brington, Harlestone, East Haddon and part of Creaton. Hollowell is well supplied through iron pipes, as also Hazelbeach and part of Holdenby. The other part of the district is supplied by wells or springs. 8 complaints have been received ; 7 samples analysed, 3 found bad ; 1 well closed and 2 wells rectified.

HOUSING ACCOMMODATION.

20 plans of houses received.

15 new houses built.

5 being built.

5 plans of alterations received.

2 plans of new Institute.

6 cases of overcrowding reported and abated.

62 Cottages and Out-buildings require repairs. 16 in hand.

201 Dwelling-houses inspected under Housing Act, 1909.

77 owners have been written to, mostly for free ventilation and other minor defects. 34 have complied with the letter.

5 Dwelling-houses the Council have under consideration for a closing order.

19 villages have been inspected from house to house.

BAKEHOUSES.

1 complaint for bad drain, which has been abated.

COWSHEDS.

1 complaint for bad floor and drainage, which has all been re-laid.

PLANS.

34 plans of houses and drains passed.

FACTORIES, LAUNDRIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Have been visited and found all right.

SCHOOLS.

School premises are visited and a report made to Council every four weeks.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

23 parishes have sewers, which are in fair order. In these parishes the dwelling-houses have hand-flushed water closets.

In East Haddon and the greater part of Maidwell the dwelling-houses have pail closets. The other parishes have generally pit closets.

There are 26 filtration areas and 2 septic tanks with filters. 2 with septic tanks only.

FLUSHING OF SEWERS.

This is done by the Council throughout the district every 14 days.

SCAVENGING.

This is done once a quarter at the following villages: Chapel and Church Brampton, Boughton, Great and Little Brington, Nobottle, Brixworth, Creaton, Cold Ashby, Guilsborough, East Haddon, Hazelbeach, Harlestone, Holcot, Moulton, Naseby, Old, Pitsford, Ravensthorpe, Spratton and Walgrave.

METHODS OF DEALING WITH INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

By notification, for such as are notifiable, and isolation either at their own homes or the Isolation Hospital.

THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The Isolation Hospital was opened in June. It was first inhabited on August 4th, and from that date until the end of the year 20 cases have been under treatment, including 18 cases of Scarlet Fever, 1 of Diphtheria, and 1 of Typhoid. During the months of November and December both wards were full of Scarlet Fever. I should like to suggest that another small ward be added to the Hospital where one could put a case of Diphtheria or Typhoid, because at present the two wards available are entirely taken up by male and female cases of Scarlet Fever.

From my Report you will see that the condition of the district as regards infectious disease is not so good as in 1912, but the death-rate is slightly lower, and there has been a slight decrease in death from Cancer and Phthisis.

I have to thank the Sanitary Inspector for his hearty co-operation, and you, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and support.

I am,

Yours obediently,

R. WINTERBOTHAM.

